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**Barn Elms.**



Barn Elms  
and  
The Kit Cat Club

now

The Banelagh Club.

In Historical Sketch

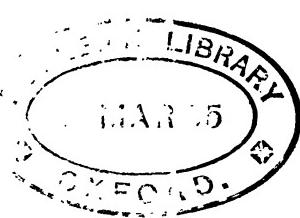
by

T. J. Barrett,

Secretary of the Banelagh Club.

London, 1884.

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TO  
HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF BEAUFORT, K.G.,  
PRESIDENT OF THE RANELAGH CLUB,  
BY  
HIS OBEDIENT SERVANT,  
THE AUTHOR.

RANELAGH CLUB,  
FULHAM,  
*June, 1884.*



*The Lease of Barn Elms having been secured by  
MR. REGINALD HERBERT, the Founder of the Ranelagh  
Club, for occupation at the close of the lease of the  
present house and grounds at Fulham, in September  
next, it has been thought by the Author that a short  
account of the historical and other associations connected  
with Barn Elms and the Kit Kat Club might not be without  
interest to the Members.*

*It is with this view that the following pages have  
been compiled, and if the Author has succeeded in  
collecting and preserving even a few of the interesting  
records which cluster thickly around the New, or, more  
correctly speaking, the Old Club House, his labour will  
not have been in vain.*

RANELAGH CLUB,

FULHAM, 1884.

Ernest



## Barn Elms.<sup>1</sup>

---

WE find that the Manor of Barn Elms was given by Athelstane<sup>2</sup> (925-940) to the Canons of St. Paul, and has been held by them ever since, with the exception of its temporary alienation in the time of Cromwell. The name, according to Lysons, is the Saxon *berne*, a barn and it has been suggested the Canons may have had a *spicarium* or great barn here; but others think that Barn was the patronymic of a family or tribe, as in Barnsbury, etc., and no doubt the parish of Barnes and the Common take their name from the same origin.

In the time of King Edward (1042-1066) it was assessed at eight hides (£6), and in the Conqueror's time at £7, which was included in the rate with the Archbishop's Manor of Mortlake, as it is at present.

<sup>1</sup> The accompanying view of "Barn Elms" has been kindly sketched for the Author by Mr. Edward Kennard, of the Ranelagh Club.

<sup>2</sup> Dugdale's "History of St. Paul's Cathedral," p. 5.

<sup>3</sup> This taxation was made at the time that Pope Nicholas IV. granted a tenth of all ecclesiastical revenues to the King to defray the expenses of the Holy War. A record of this taxation is preserved in the Exchequer; another copy is in the Bodleian Library, and is often referred to by the title of the Bodleian Valor. The valuation of ecclesiastical revenues was the same in most instances in 1406, when the clergy of the province of Canterbury granted a tenth to the King. (*Vide Regist. Winton* at the beginning of Beaufort's Register.) The valuation in the King's books was made in 1534.

In the year 1283 there was a royal mandate that this Manor should not be leased to any but members of the Church of St. Paul's. About the year 1256 it was leased to Robert de Barton, precentor, for life, subject to the annual payment of three rents in bread and beer, the customary dues to the bakehouse and beerhouse, and forty shillings per annum to the Chapter; several other leases to members of the Church are preserved among the records.

In the taxation of Pope Nicholas about 1291, the property is valued as the property of the Canons at £12.<sup>3</sup> In the reign of Edward II. the Canons obtained from the King a charter of free warren, and an exception of the burthensome charge of purveyance.

From the Patent Rolls of the tenth year of Henry IV. (1409), it appears that the Archbishop of Canterbury was entitled to a sparrow-hawk (esperverium) or 2*s.* in money annually, and also £2 every twentieth year, for ever, from the Lords of the Manor of Barnes, belonging to the Canons of St. Paul's, that they might be excused from serving from the office of reeve in his Manor of Wimbledon.

<sup>1</sup> Lamb, Reg. Bouchier, f. 124b.

<sup>2</sup> Wyat's term commenced 1st March, 10th Henry VII. (1504); it was for ninety-six years. Chapter Book St. Paul's (Shirburne, Dean).

<sup>3</sup> An authentic portrait of Sir Francis Walsingham, sold by the present occupier, H. D. Pochin, Esq., on his leaving Barn Elms, has been secured for the Club.

This, like most estates belonging to ecclesiastical bodies, has been generally let on lease for long terms.

In the fifteenth century the Manor was again leased to laymen, for, in 1467 (temp. Edward IV.), Sir John Saye and others were lessees of this Manor, which they held with the advowson, and presented to the living in that year, and again in 1471 and 1477. Both the Manor and advowson had been transferred, in or before 1480, to Thomas Thwayte,<sup>1</sup> Chancellor of the Exchequer, and of the Duchy of Lancaster. In 1504 (19th year of Henry VII.) a lease was granted to Henry Wiatt, Esq.,<sup>2</sup> who appears to have been afterwards knighted, for, in 1513 and 1524 (temp. Henry VIII.), Sir Henry Wiatt, Knight, presented to the living as patron and grantee of the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's. The Wiatts had a long lease, which, by assignment, passed through several hands. Sir Andrew Judd was in possession in 1555; James Altham in 1577; Thomas Smythe in 1573, and, in 1579, Richard Martin, Alderman of London. In 1579 he sold his interest to Queen Elizabeth, who bought it for Sir Francis Walsingham<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Lady Walsingham was Ursula, daughter of Henry St. Barbe, of Somersetshire, and widow of Sir Richard Worsley. Her two only sons were blown up with gunpowder soon after her marriage with Sir Francis Walsingham. "Baronetage," 1741, Vol. I., p. 191.

and his heirs for ever, as a reward for good services done to the Crown. Sir Francis entertained the Queen in 1585, 1588 and 1589. On the last of these visits, Lord Talbot, who was appointed to attend the Queen at Barn Elms, wrote to his father the Earl of Shrewsbury, May 26th, 1589 :—

" This day her Majestie goeth to Barn Elms, where  
" she is purposed to tarry all daye to-morrow, being  
" Tuesday, and Wednesday to return to Whitehall agayne.  
" I am appointed among the rest to attend her Majestie  
" to Barn Elms. I pray God my diligent attendance here  
" may procure me a gracious answer to my suit at her  
" return, for while she is ther nothing may be moved but  
" matter of delyghte, and to content her, which is the  
" only cause of her going thither."

Walsingham died poor at his house in Seething Lane, in 1590, in such wretched circumstances that his friends were obliged to bury him privately in the dead of night, in confirmation of which alleged fact no certificate of his funeral has been discovered at the Herald's Office, which would have been the case had he been buried with the customary honours. His widow resided at Barn Elms till her death, twelve years later, 19th June, 1602, and was buried privately on the following night near her husband's

\* Gerard mentions planting a *Phillyrea ferrata* in the garden  
of Barn Elmes, belonging to the Right Hon. the Earl of Essex.

remains in St. Paul's Cathedral. The Manor passed to their daughter, who, as Lysons remarks, had the singular good fortune of being wife to three of the most accomplished men of the age—Sir Philip Sidney, the Earl of Essex (the unfortunate favourite of Queen Elizabeth), and the Earl of Clanricard; but only her second husband, the Earl of Essex,<sup>1</sup> is known to have made Barn Elms his residence.

From an entry in the parish register it appears that Robert Beale, Chancellor of the North and Clerk of Privy Council, brother-in-law to Lady Walsingham, also died at Barn Elms, March 25th, 1601. This time-serving courtier acquired for himself an unenviable notoriety through his having been frequently employed by Queen Elizabeth in her negotiations with Mary, Queen of Scotland. He accompanied Lord Buckhurst when the latter went to announce to her that sentence of death had been passed upon her; he was also despatched to Fotheringay Castle with the warrant for the beheading of the ill-fated Queen, which warrant he read on the scaffold, and remained to witness its execution.

Camden describes him as being a man of im-



petuous and morose disposition, therefore all the more qualified to carry out the inhuman orders of his tyrannical and jealous mistress. He was employed on an embassy to Zealand with Sir William Winter, in 1576, and the year before his death was one of the Commissioners at the treaty of Boulogne. Several of his letters on the business of the Queen of Scots are in Lodge's "Shrewsbury Papers." His daughter married Sir Henry Yelverton, one of the Judges in the Common Pleas (temp. Charles I.)

By two entries in the register it would seem that the Princess Mary, daughter of King James I., had been resident at Barn Elms, as two of her servants were buried here in August and September, 1603. Mr Lysons observes that there must be a mistake in the register or in the historians, who do not bring her out of Scotland till after that period. Lady Walsingham was sent to Scotland to bring up some of the King's children, and, according to Baker's Chronicle, returned with Prince Henry and the Princess Elizabeth about the beginning of July, 1603. It was then customary for some of the nobility or great people about the Court to farm



the royal children (if one may use the expression), that is, they discharged the expenses of their board and education by contract.

Edward Ferrers, Esq., and his wife Catherine, were in possession of the lease in 1628; Richard Gossom in 1633. In 1638 the Dean and Chapter held a Court for themselves for this Manor. The next year, 1639, they leased the demesne to John Cartwright, Esq., for twenty-one years, who, when the Church property was exposed for sale by the Parliament, purchased the estate, and Richard Steete, Esq., of London, bought the Manor and advowson. After the restoration of Charles II. the Dean and Chapter recovered their interest, and Mr. Cartwright, or his representatives, held it on lease as before (they held this lease till 1750, when Sir R. Hoare became lessee at £60 per annum).

In 1659 the house was advertised to be let by the description of "Barn Elms House, in Surrey, "with orchards, gardens, coach-houses, stable, "grazing for two geldings or cows, spring water, "brought to the house in leaden pipes, pleasant walks "by the Thames side, and other accommodation.

<sup>1</sup> "Mercurius Politicus," 5th May, 1659.

<sup>2</sup> Account of the Life of Abraham Cowley,

" To be let, or may be divided into two convenient  
" dwellings, with garden, orchard and water to  
" each of them; enquire further of Mr. Edward  
" Marshall, a stone cutter, living in Fetter Lane."

Abraham Cowley came here, in 1664, for "solitude,"  
but, says his biographer, Bishop Spratt, it did not

" Agree so well with his body as his mind. The chief  
" cause of it was, that out of haste to be gone away from  
" the tumult and noise of the City, he had not prepared  
" so healthful situation in the country as he might have  
" done. Of this he soon began to find the inconvenience  
" at Barn Elms, where he was afflicted with a dangerous  
" and lingering fever. After that he scarce ever recovered  
" his former health."<sup>2</sup>

Evelyn records two visits to Cowley here:—

" 14th May, 1663.—Went to Barnes to visit my excel-  
" lent and ingenious friend, Abraham Cowley."

" June 2nd, 1664.—To Barne Elmes to see Abraham  
" Cowley after his sickness."

In 1665 Cowley removed to Chertsey, where he  
died two years later, 1667. But though Cowley  
sought solitude, others came here about this time  
with very different intent.

We read in Pepys' Diary, May 26th, 1667:—

" After dinner by water alone to Westminster to the  
" parish church, and there did entertain myself with my  
" perspective glass up and down the church, by which I



" had the great pleasure of seeing and gazing at a great  
" many very fine women; and what with that and sleeping  
" I passed away the time till sermon was done. Then  
" away to my boat, and up with it as far as *Barn Elms*,  
" reading of Mr. Evelyn's late new book against Solitude,  
" in which I do not find much excess of good matter,  
" though it be pretty for a bye discourse. I walked the  
" length of the Elms, and with great pleasure saw some  
" gallant ladies and people come with their bottles and  
" basket, and chairs and form, to sup under the trees by  
" the water side, which was mighty pleasant. So home."

Pepys several times writes in his Diary that he went on the "Lorde's Day" afternoon up the river in his boat "to Barn Elms, and there took a turn" alone, or "with my wife and Mercer up by the water to Barn Elms, where we walked by moonshine;" but on one occasion, after "an extraordinary good dinner" which he gave to "Mrs. Pierce and Mrs. Manuel, the Jew's wife, and Mrs. Corbet and Mrs. Pierce's boy and girl—

" I had a barge ready at the Tower Wharf to take us  
" in, and so went all of us up as high as Barn Elms, a very  
" fine day, and all the way sung; and Mrs. Manuel sings  
" very finely, and is a mighty discreet, sober carriageed  
" woman, that both my wife and I are mighty taken  
" with her. At Barn Elms we walked round, and then to  
" the barge again, and had much merry talk and good  
" singing."



The velvet lawns of Barn Elms seem about this time to have been very attractive to pleasure seekers ; even the Lord Mayor and other civic magnates, when they went up the river in their barges, usually halted at Barn Elms to indulge in music, dance, and feast.

It was at Barn Elms that the duel was fought, January 16th, 1678, between the Earl of Shrewsbury and the Duke of Buckingham, respecting the wife of the former, which caused so much scandal even in the licentious Court of Charles II. The Earl of Shrewsbury died two months after, but a pardon had meantime been granted, under the Great Seal, to all persons concerned in the duel. It was said that the Countess, habited as a page, held the Duke's horse whilst he was fighting her husband, and went home with him afterwards.

Again in Pepys' Diary, March 23rd, 1668 :—

" Much discourse of the duel yesterday between the  
" Duke of Buckingham, [Sir Robert] Holmes, and one  
" [Captain William] Jenkins, on one side, and my lord of  
" Shrewsbury, Sir John Talbot, and one Bernard Howard  
" (son of the Earl of Arundel) on the other side; and all  
" about my lady Shrewsbury, who is at this time, and  
" hath for a great while been, a mistress to the Duke of  
" Buckingham, and so her husband challenged him, and



" they met yesterday in a close near Barn Elms, and there  
" fought; and my lord Shrewsbury is run through the  
" body, from the right breast through the shoulder, and  
" Sir John Talbot all along up one of his arms, and Jenkins  
" killed upon the place, and the rest all in a little measure  
" wounded."

Before Mr. Hoare purchased the estate in 1750, the Swiss Count Heidegger, master of the revels in the reign of George II., was for some time tenant of the house, 1727-1750.

Heidegger was noted for his skill in arranging the revels, as he was amongst the wits for his ugliness (" something betwixt Heidegger and an owl "), and the King invited himself one evening to sup with him. His Majesty came by boat from his palace at Richmond, and it was dark when he reached Barn Elms. There were no lights, and he made his way with some difficulty along the avenue to the house ; that was dark also, and the King grew angry at the absence of preparation, when, in an instant, house, avenue, and grounds became brilliantly illuminated by innumerable lamps, which had been so arranged as to be lighted simultaneously. The King greatly enjoyed the surprise, and, as the rest of the enter-



tainment was equally successful, Heidegger was abundantly complimented for his device. Heidegger was for many years lessee of the King's Theatre, and during the years 1728-34 Handel was his partner, and produced there his oratorio of "Esther," and operas of "Orlando" and "Deborah;" but their friendship was of earlier date, and Handel, when he first came to England, resided some time at Barn Elms.

Richard Hoare, Esq. (son of Sir Richard Hoare, Knight), became lessee of Barn Elms, as previously stated, in 1750. He was created a baronet in June, 1786, and succeeded by his only son, Sir Richard Colt Hoare, Baronet, who enlarged the mansion and made many improvements. About 1827 his interest was sold to the Hammersmith Bridge Company, but it was afterwards transferred to Sir Thomas Colebrook, Baronet.

Sir Lancelot Shadwell, Knight, Vice-Chancellor of England, succeeded Sir T. Colebrooke.

We are indebted to Mr. Markham Spofforth for the following anecdote :—" During the vacation, and when the weather was at its hottest, Vice-Chancellor Shadwell, who was vacation judge, bethought himself that the



lake was cooler than the shades of even the finest plane trees in the world. Accordingly, he betook himself to the boathouse, and was quickly up to his chin in the lake. He had left word at the house that if anyone wanted him they were to be shown to the boathouse. He never contemplated the result, for a large party of lawyers, barristers, registrars, solicitors, and clerks arrived unexpectedly to obtain an injunction on a pressing emergency. They were conducted to the place where the Vice-Chancellor was enjoying what Thomson, the poet, called—

‘The purest exercise of health,  
The cool refresher of the summer heats.’

And sitting up to his chin in water the cool old Vice-Chancellor heard their case, argued the points with them, as in duty bound when an *ex parte* application is made, and finally, without moving a muscle of his countenance, said, ‘*Take an injunction!*’ This was recorded by the Registrar, and the interesting episode ended.”

David Barclay Chapman, Esq., lived here, and was succeeded by Signor Garcia, who, in 1870,



disposed of his interest to H. D. Pochin, Esq., the lease expiring September, 1884. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners have granted from that date a long lease to Mr. Reginald Herbert, of Clytha, who proposes establishing the Ranelagh Club at Barn Elms, the lease of Ranelagh House, Fulham, the present quarters of the Club, expiring this year.

**An authentic portrait of Mr. Jacob Tonson, the elder,  
"Kit Cat size," by Hogarth, sold by the present occupier,  
H. D. Pochin, Esq., on his leaving Barn Elms, has been secured  
for the Club at a high figure.**

## The Kit Cat Club.

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 JOINING the mansion was a house which belonged to Mr. Jacob Tonson, the bookseller.<sup>1</sup> He was secretary to a club which had its beginning about the time of the trial of the seven bishops, in the reign of James II., and consisted of the most eminent men who opposed the measures of that most arbitrary monarch, and conducted to bring about the Revolution. Their ostensible object would seem to have been the encouragement of literature and the fine arts, but the end they laboured most assiduously to accomplish was the promotion of loyalty and allegiance to the Protestant succession in the House of Hanover; indeed, they carried their zeal in the cause they advocated to such extraordinary lengths, that the most beneficial effects resulted from their exertions. Charles, Earl of Dorset, was one of the first in its formation. It consisted of thirty-nine members, all men of the

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Noble, in his continuation of "Granger," Vol. III., p. 431, says this: "And that it was afterwards held at Barn Elms, in Surrey, near which place one of Tonson's sons purchased a house in 1747; and that the Duke of Somerset presenting him with his portrait, all the other Members of the Club did the same." By the construction of this sentence, it would seem that the portraits were presented to Tonson's son; but Tonson had a nephew, no son; and there is no doubt of their having been presented to Tonson himself.

first rank and quality or learning, most of whom were at times employed in the greatest offices of State or in the Army, and none were admitted but those of high distinction in one way or another. The particulars of the origin of the Kit Cat Club are involved in some obscurity. The etymology of its nomenclature has been variously accounted for. It, in all probability, took its name from the person at whose house the meetings of the Club were first held. Their earliest place of rendezvous was at a house in Shire Lane, near Temple Bar, at the sign of the "Cat and Fiddle," and, as some say, afterwards at the house of Christopher Cat, the celebrated pie man, who kept the "Fountain" Tavern in the Strand. In "The Spectator" (No. 9), however, they are said to have derived their title, not from the maker of the pie, but from the pie itself, which was called a Kit Kat, as we now say a sandwich. Thus, in a Prologue to the "Reformed Wife," it is insisted that—

"A Kit Kat is a supper for a lord;"

but Dr. King, in his "Art of Cookery," is for the pieman—

"Immortal made, as Kit Kat by his pies."



It is also stated that the name of the Club "Kit Cat," was taken from the "Cat and Fiddle," the sign at which Christopher Cat made his pies. However this might be, there seems no doubt that a man of the name of Christopher Cat, either as a pastry-cook or a tavern-keeper, furnished them with such delicious mutton pies that they became a standing dish at the meetings of the Club, which at length, in 1708, obtained the name of the Kit Cat Club. Sir Richard Blackmore published a poem, called "The Rise and Progress of the Kit Cat Club." There is a ludicrous account of it in Ned Ward's "History of Clubs," which represents Tonson as the originator of the institution.

The Club was literary and gallant, as well as political. The members subscribed four hundred guineas for the encouragement of good comedies in 1709. The Club had its toasting glasses inscribed with a verse or toast to some reigning beauty, among whom were the four lovely daughters of the Duke of Marlborough—Lady Godolphin, Lady Sunderland, Lady Bridgewater, and Lady Monthermer; Swift's friends—Mrs. Long and Mrs. Barton, the latter the



beautiful and witty niece of Sir Isaac Newton; the Duchess of Bolton, Mrs. Brudenell and Lady Carlisle, Mrs. D. Kirk and Lady Wharton.

Dr. Arbuthnot, in the following epigram, seems to derive the name of the Club from this custom of toasting ladies after dinner, rather than from the renowned maker of mutton pies:—

"Whence deathless Kit Cat took his name  
Few critics can unriddle;  
Some say from pastrycook it came,  
And some from 'Cat and Fiddle.'

"From no trim beaux its name it boasts,  
Grey statesmen or green wits,  
But from this pell-mell pack of toasts  
Of old Cats and young Kits."

Lord Halifax wrote for the toasting glasses the following verses, in 1603:—

"THE DUCHESS OF ST. ALBAN'S.

"The line of Vere, so long renowned in arms,  
Concludes with lustre in St. Alban's charms.  
Her conquering eyes have made their race complete—  
They rose in valour, and in beauty set."



"THE DUCHESS OF BEAUFORT.

"Offspring of a tuneful sire,  
Blest with more than mortal fire;  
Likeness of a mother's face,  
Blest with more than mortal grace:  
You with double charms surprise,  
With his wit and with her eyes."

"THE LADY MARY CHURCHILL.

"Fairest and latest of the beauteous race,  
Blest with your parent's wit, and her first blooming face,  
Born with our liberties in William's reign,  
Your eyes alone that liberty restrain."

"THE LADY SUNDERLAND.

"All Nature's charms in Sunderland appear,  
Bright as her eyes, and as her reason clear;  
Yet still their force, to man not safely known,  
Seems undiscovered to herself alone."

"THE MADEMOISELLE SPANHEIM.

"Admired in Germany, adored in France,  
Your charms to brighten glory here advance;  
The stubborn Britons own your beauty's claim,  
And with their native toast enrol your name."

"TO MRS. BARTON.

"Beauty and wit strove, each in vain,  
To vanquish Bacchus and his train;  
But Barton, with successful charms,  
From both their quivers drew her arms.  
The roving god his sway resigns,  
And awfully submits his vines."



In the summer the Club met at the "Upper Flask," Hampstead Heath, then a gay resort, with its races, ruffles, and private marriages.

The political significance of the Club was such that Walpole records that, though the Club was generally mentioned as a "set of wits," they were in reality the patriots that saved Britain. According to Pope and Tonson, Garth, Vanbrugh, and Congreve were the then most honest-hearted real good men of the poetical members of the Club.

There were odd scenes and incidents occasionally at the Club meetings. Sir Samuel Garth, physician to George I., was a witty member, and wrote some of the inscriptions for the toasting glasses. Coming one night to the Club, Garth declared he must soon be gone, having many patients to attend, but, some good wine being produced, he forgot them. Sir Richard Steele was of the party, and reminding him of the visits he had to pay, Garth immediately pulled out his list, which numbered fifteen, and said, "It's no great matter whether I see them to-night or not, for nine of them have such bad constitutions that all the physicians in the world can't save them,



" and the other six have such good constitutions that  
" all the physicians in the world can't kill them."

Tonson built a room at his house here for their meeting, in which were placed the portraits of the members, all painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller, and which were presented to him. These portraits he, in his lifetime, gave to his nephew Jacob, probably on his retiring to Ledbury, in Herefordshire, where he had an estate, and spent the latter end of his life. On the death of Jacob, great nephew of old Jacob, they came to his brother Richard, of Water Oakley, near Windsor, who removed them to that place, and they belong to William Baker, Esq., late M.P. for the County of Hereford, whose father married the eldest daughter of Jacob, the nephew. The room where they were originally intended to be hung, in which the Club often dined, not being sufficiently lofty for what are called half-length pictures, was the reason of a shorter canvas being used (36 inches long by 28 wide), sufficiently long to admit a hand. This occasioned "Kit Cat" to become a technical term in painting for such as were of the same dimensions and form. Tonson appears to have been the key-



stone of the Kit Cat Club, as may be collected from the following extracts from letters addressed to him by several of its members. The Duke of Somerset tells him in an epistle, dated June 22nd, 1703, "Our Club is dissolved till you revive it again, which we are impatient of." In the same month and year, Vanbrugh, who was always exceedingly well disposed towards Tonson, and corresponded with him for upwards of twenty years, writing to him at Amsterdam, says, "In short, the Kit Cat wants you much more than you ever can do them. Those who remain in town are in great desire of waiting on you at Barn Elms." Again, July 10th, 1703: "The Kit Cat will never meet without you, so, you see, here's stagnation for want of you."

Mr. Tonson was printer to the Government in Queen Anne's time, during the administration of the Whigs, but on the Tories coming in, Swift got the appointment for Alderman Barber; however, on the accession of King George I., it was restored to him, and, in 1720, he obtained a grant of it for forty years, and afterwards a reversionary grant of forty years

<sup>1</sup> It has been said that, in an excursion to Paris, during the Mississippi Scheme, he adventured in it, and withdrawing in time, gained a considerable sum.

<sup>2</sup> The above is taken from Mr. Nichols' Notes on the Letter to the Bishop of St. Asaph, in the 8vo. edition of Swift's Works, in 1808, p. 517; Notes on the 8vo. edition of "The Spectator," No. 9, pp. 52, 53; and other communication from Mr. Nichols.

more, under which his family, or their assigns, held the appointment till the year 1800.

Mr. Tonson, with the fairest credit, acquired a large fortune,<sup>1</sup> and having purchased an estate in Herefordshire, he, about the year 1720, transferred his business to his nephew, and spent most of the remainder of his life at Ledbury, where he died in 1736, about the age of 80.<sup>2</sup>

The following epitaph, written by a young gentleman of Eton, composed for Tonson, the nephew, appeared in the "Gentleman's Magazine" for 1736, Vol. VI., p. 106, and, although not placed on his monument, is worth transcribing—

" Vitæ volumine peracto,  
Hic finis Jacobi Tonson  
Perpoliti sociorum principis;  
Qui velut obstetrix musarum  
In lucem edidit  
Fœlices in genii partus.  
Lugete, scriptorum chorus,  
Et frangite calamos!  
Ille vester margine erasmus deleter;  
Sed hæc postrema inscriptio  
Hinc primæ mortis paginæ,  
Imprimatur,



Ne prelo sepulchri commissus  
Ipse editor caret titulo  
Hic jacet Bibliopola  
Folio vitæ delapso  
Expectans novam editionem  
Auctiorem et emendatiorem.

Want of space prevents us enumerating the many and high appointments held by those noblemen and gentlemen who were members of the Kit Club. We shall, therefore, only give their names and a few short particulars.

The first portrait is that of—

(1.) SIR GODFREY KNELLER, the celebrated portrait painter, who painted all the others. He was a native of Lubeck, in Holstein, belonging to Denmark, but his grandfather had an estate near Hall, in Saxony. He was sent to study at Leyden, but his genius leading to drawing historical figures, he was first put under the care of Rembrandt; he afterwards studied at Rome, lived some time at Venice, and from thence came to England, where he soon became a favourite of King Charles II., and was employed by his successors, by King William, Queen Anne, and King George I. By King William he was knighted, The Emperor Leopold, in 1700, made him a Knight of the Holy Roman Empire, and by the patent he was inscribed in the number of the nobles, with all the privileges enjoyed by those who had had that honour for four descents, paternal and maternal. King George I. created him a baronet, 24th May, 1715. He was born in 1645, and died in 1723.



(2.) CHARLES, Duke of Somerset, the last of that line. He refused to attend the Pope's Nuncio to his public audience of King James II., and was thereupon removed from the employment he held. He was Master of the Horse to King George II., but his son-in-law, Sir William Windham, Baronet, on the breaking out of the rebellion in 1715, being committed to the Tower on suspicion, and the Duke's bail for him being refused, he resigned his post and retired to Petworth, where he resided almost constantly till his death. He was born in 1662, and died in 1748.

(3.) CHARLES LENOX, second Duke of Richmond. He was one of the Knights of the Bath on the revival of that order in 1725, and Knight of the Garter in 1726. He was born in 1701, and died in 1750.

(4.) CHARLES FITZROY, second Duke of Grafton, Knight of the Garter in 1721. Born in 1683, died in 1757.

(5.) WILLIAM CAVENDISH, second Duke of Devonshire. He has in his hand the staff of Lord Steward, to which office he was appointed on the accession of King George I. He died in 1729. Knight of the Garter.

(6.) JOHN, Duke of Marlborough, the celebrated general. Born in 1650, and died in 1722. K.G.

(7.) JOHN, second Duke of Marlborough. Knight of the Garter in 1718, Great Master of the Order of the Bath on its revival in 1725; died in 1749.

(8.) EVELYN, Duke of Kingston, so created in 1715. Died in 1726. K.G.

(9.) THOMAS PELHAM HOLLES, Duke of Newcastle. Born in 1694, died in 1768.



(10.) CHARLES MONTAGU, Duke of Manchester, so created by King George I. in 1719. He died in 1722.

(11.) LIONEL CRANFIELD SACKVILLE, Earl of Dorset, created Duke by King George I., 1720. He was made Knight of the Garter in 1725, was Lord Steward, and, in 1730, Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. He was born in 1688, and died in 1763.

(12.) THOMAS WHARTON, Marquis of Wharton. Born 1648, died 1715.

(13.) THEOPHILUS HASTINGS, Earl of Huntingdon. Born in 1696, died 1746.

(14.) CHARLES SACKVILLE, Earl of Dorset, father of the Duke above named. Knight of the Garter. Born 1639, died 1707.

(15.) ALGERNON CAPEL, second Earl of Essex. Died 1710.

(16.) CHARLES HOWARD, Earl of Carlisle. Died 1738. The staff in his hand is that of Deputy Earl Marshal.

(17.) RICHARD BOYLE, Earl of Burlington, Knight of the Garter. Noted for his skill in architecture. Born in 1695, died 1738.

(18.) JAMES BERKELEY, Earl of Berkeley, Knight of the Garter, resided at Durdans, in Epsom; was bred to the Navy, and distinguished himself on several occasions; was Custos Rotulorum of Surrey. Died 1736.

(19.) RICHARD LUMLEY, Earl of Scarborough, Knight of the Garter. Died 1740.

(20.) FRANCIS, Earl of Godolphin. Died 1735.

<sup>1</sup> His most celebrated architectural works are as follows :—

S. John's Church, Westminster.  
Castle Howard, in Yorkshire.  
Eastberry, in Dorsetshire.  
Easton Neston, in Northamptonshire.  
King's Weston, near Bristol.  
The Opera House in the Haymarket.  
Mr. Duncombe's, in Yorkshire.

The Epitaph on Sir John Vanbrugh, said to have been written  
by Dr. Evans, is not without point :—

"Lie heavy on him, Earth, for he  
Laid many a heavy load on thee."

(21.) CHARLES MONTAGU, Earl of Halifax, a Poet, Knight of the Garter. Born 1661, died 1715.

(22.) JAMES, Earl Stanhope, the conqueror of Minorca in 1708; created Viscount Mahon in 1717, and Earl Stanhope in 1718. Born 1671, died 1721.

(23.) SPENCER COMPTON, Earl of Wilmington, one of the managers of the House of Commons on the trial of Dr. Sacheverell, Knight of the Bath on the revival of that order in 1725. Knight of the Garter in 1733. Died 1743.

(24.) RICHARD TEMPLE, Viscount Cobham. Died 1749.

(25.) CHARLES MOHUN, fifth and last Lord Mohun. He had been in the Army, but quitted it, and applied himself to public affairs, and became a speaker in debates in Parliament. A dispute arose between him and the Duke of Hamilton on the subject of an estate, which ended in a duel in Hyde Park, in which both were killed, in 1712.

(26.) RICHARD CORNWALLIS, fourth Lord Cornwallis. Born 1647, died 1721.

(27.) JOHN VAUGHAN, Earl of Carbery. Born 1673, died 1721.

(28.) JOHN SUMMERS, Baron Evesham, Lord Chancellor. Born 1652, died 1716.

(29.) RICHARD BOYLE, Viscount Shannon. Born 1668 died 1740.

(30.) SIR ROBERT WALPOLE, the celebrated Minister of State, afterwards Earl of Orford. Born 1674, died 1746.

(31.) SIR JOHN VANBRUGH, the Architect and author of Comedies, Garter King-at-Arms in October, 1715. Died in 1726.<sup>1</sup>



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- (32.) SIR SAMUEL GARTH, M.D., a Poet. Died 1719.
- (33.) SIR RICHARD STEELE, the celebrated Author. Born 1676, died 1729.
- (34.) JOHN TIDCOMB, Esq., a General Officer. Died 1713.
- (35.) WILLIAM PULTENEY, Esq., Secretary at War, afterwards the great leader of the Tories in opposition to Sir Robert Walpole; before deserting them, took the title of Earl of Bath. Born in 1682, died in 1764.
- (36.) JOSEPH ADDISON, Esq., the celebrated Author. Born 1663, died 1719.
- (37.) GEORGE STEPNEY, Esq., a Poet. Born 1673, died 1707.
- (38.) ABRAHAM STANYARD, Esq., Ambassador to the Porte, and Author of the "Grecian History." Died 1741.
- (39.) EDMUND DUNCH, Esq., Master of the Household to Queen Anne and King George I. Died 1719.
- (40.) WILLIAM WALSH, Esq., a Poet. Born 1659, died 1708.
- (41.) CHARLES CONGREVE, Esq., a Poet. Born 1673, died 1729.
- (42.) CHARLES DARTIQUENAVE, was Paymaster of the Board of Works and Surveyor of the Royal Gardens and Waterworks: a writer in "The Tattler." This gentleman was the epicure who has been handed down to posterity in that excellent work of Lord Lyttleton, "The Dialogues of the Dead," where he is introduced in the company of Apicius,

**\* A complete set of these mezzotint engravings have been, after  
considerable research, discovered and purchased for the Club,  
July, 1884.**

the Roman gourmand, comparing the luxuries of that people with those of modern times. Pope has noticed him in his Imitation of the first Satire of Horace, where he says—

“ Each mortal has his pleasure ; none deny  
Scarsdale his bottle, Darty his ham pye.”

(43.) THOMAS HOPKINS, Esq. } of a Warwickshire  
(44.) EDWARD HOPKINS, Esq. } family.

(45.) ARTHUR MAINWARING, Esq., of Chertsey, Surrey,  
Commissioner of the Customs. Born 1668, died 1712.

(46.) JACOB TONSON, the eminent Bookseller, Secretary  
to this Club. Born 1656, died 1736.

The portraits were engraved in mezzotint by Faber, and published the year before Tonson's death, they were afterwards re-engraved by Cooper, accompanied by the written Memoirs, in 1881.

The Kit Cat Club seems to have dissolved or died away about the year 1720, and as far as can be gathered, no attempt has, up to the present time, been made to revive it. After a lapse of over a century and a half, by a combination of the most fortuitous circumstances, the opportunity of securing Barn Elms as a Club House presents itself to the Members of the Ranelagh Club, now obliged to leave their quarters at Fulham.



This opportunity they seem anxious to avail themselves of, and we have every reason to hope that the year 1885 will see the Ranelagh Club established in the old quarters of the "Kit Cat," and offering such attractions as were little dreamt of in the days of the worthy Tonson and Christopher Cat.





